

HB 1135: An Act Concerning Nuclear Medicine Technologists

Public Hearing

Date: 3/20/2013 Rm. 1E

Electronic testimony from Tony Sicignano being filed per request by Sen. Gerratana.

Good Evening Madam Chairs and the Members of the Public Health Committee.

My name is Tony Sicignano and I am a Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Yale New Haven Hospital the St. Raphael Campus in New Haven, Ct.

I am speaking in support of House Bill number 1135: An Act Concerning Nuclear Medicine Technologists.

The purpose of this License/Statutory Recognition legislation is twofold.

The first and primary reason is one of public safety. By establishing a License/Statutory Recognition for Nuclear Medicine Technologists, this legislation will provide the public with a safe delivery of healthcare services and medical imaging in the Nuclear Medicine environment. This legislation will establish a minimum standard for any person practicing nuclear medicine imaging in the State of Connecticut. It will state the education and certification minimums to be achieved by a nuclear medicine technologist. By establishing these standards the public will be assured safe, quality services, reduced healthcare costs by lowering the number of repeated procedures due to poor technique and will be confident of the technologist performing their diagnostic imaging and therapeutic services.

The second reason is the establishment of language which will allow the Nuclear Medicine Technologist the ability to operate the hybrid imaging systems now being utilized in Nuclear Medicine Departments. These systems are PET/CT and PET/MRI.

We did participate in the Scope of Practice process which began in August 2012. During this process we had the opportunity to discuss, in length, the feasibility of Licensure vs. Statutory Recognition. The Dept. of Public Health was extremely helpful in helping us understand the differences between the two processes. We also discussed the financial ramifications of each process. Due to the financial constraints our state is facing, we have opted to request Statutory Recognition as the more possible solution. However, when the state's financial situation improves, we would like to move forward with Licensing.

We would like to offer our support and welcome the opportunity to work with this committee and other interested parties in drafting the language for this bill.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to testify before your committee.